

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 EB-07 OMB-01

TRSE-00 PM-03 AID-05 IO-10 ACDA-10 SAM-01 SAB-01 /095 W

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R 301415Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4515

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS AMMAN 2889

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, JO, US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE OF KING HUSSEIN'S US VISIT

1. SUMMARY: JORDANIAN PRESS APRIL 30 GIVES PROMINENT COVERAGE TO KING'S ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON, NOTING DETERMINATION OF PRESIDENT FORD TO RECEIVE KING IN SPITE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH VIETNAM EVACUATION. EDITORIAL COMMENT NOTES THAT PRIME PURPOSE OF TRIP IS FOR KING HUSSEIN TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF US PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW, AND THAT PRESIDENT FORD'S INTENTION TO MAINTAIN STRONG AND FRIENDLY JORDAN IMPLIES PRO-ARAB CHANGE IN US POLICY. PRESS ALSO CLAIMS THAT RUMORS OF JORDANIAN-SYRIAN MILITARY AGREEMENTS ARE MEANT MERELY TO SABOTAGE WASHINGTON TALKS. END SUMMARY.

2. JORDANIAN PRESS APRIL 30 GAVE FULL COVERAGE TO HUSSEIN'S ACTIVITIES IN WASHINGTON, NOTING THAT IN SPITE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S PREOCCUPATION WITH EVENTS IN VIETNAM, LATTER STILL MANAGED TO MEET
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WITH KING IN MORNING AND HOST DINNER FOR HIM IN

EVENING. HEADLINES BANNER "HUSSEIN BEGINS HIS TALKS WITH AMERICAN PRESIDENT". PRESS REPORTED WHITE HOUSE COMMUNIQUE PLEDGING TO WORK FOR JUST PEACE, CONTINUED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN, AND EFFORTS TO KEEP JORDAN STABLE AND FRIENDLY "UNDER THE COMMAND OF AL-HUSSEIN".

3. IN EDITORIAL ENTITLED, "THE AMERICAN CHANGE IN FORD'S STATEMENTS", DAILY AS-SABAHAH REFERS TO PRESIDENT FORD'S "ASSURANCES THAT AMERICA'S INTEREST LIES IN KEEPING JORDAN STRONG AND FRIENDLY UNDER KING HUSSEIN... JORDAN CANNOT BE STRONG AND FRIENDLY UNLESS PRESURE IS PUT ON ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW FROM THE OCCUPIED AREAS...IF PRESIDENT FORD'S ASSURANCES TO KING HUSSEIN REPRESENT THE NEW, REASSESSED POLICY OF THE US IN THE MIDEAST, AMERICA WILL MAINTAIN ITS POSITION IN THE AREA AFTER LOSING IT IN THE FAR EAST".

4. EDITORIAL IN AD-DUSTOUR REFERS TO NEWS AGENCY REPORTS OF "JORDANIAN-SYRIAN MILITARY AGREEMENT UNDER MOSCOW'S SUPERVISION, AND SUGGESTIONS THAT THIS MEANS A CHANGE IN JORDAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD MOSCOW, OR EVEN TOWARDS WAR. THIS TALK IS MEANT MERELY TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THE OBJECTIVES OF HUSSEIN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND TO MAKE JORDAN APPEAR AS IF IT IS TURNING ITS BACK ON PEACEFUL EFFORTS. THIS OF COURSE COULD NOT BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH,...FOR THE KING'S VISIT IS MEANT TO EXPLORE THE EXTENT OF THE AMERICAN EFFORTS FOR PEACE. AMERICA IS THE KEY TO MOVING ISRAELI STUBBORNNESS,...AND ON THIS BASIS THE ARABS PUT THEIR MONEY ON THE AMERICAN HORSE, TO FIND FOR THEM A JUST SOLUTION. THE KING'S VISIT IS THUS INTENDED TO AVOID A SUSPENSION OF THE AMERICAN ROLE,AND TO WARN AGAINST THE DANGERS OF FREEZING EFFORTS FOR PEACE..."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES, CHIEF OF STATE VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN02889
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750152-0059
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975041/aaaaasm.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COVERAGE OF KING HUSSEIN'S US VISIT
TAGS: PFOR, JO, US, (HUSSEIN I)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006